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# Newsletter

## Number 02

9 February 2018



**Website** [www.matarau.school.nz](http://www.matarau.school.nz)

**Phone** (09) 433 5823 **Email** – [admin@matarau.school.nz](mailto:admin@matarau.school.nz)

### Thanks

...to those parents who have volunteered to help in classrooms / around the school this year. Happy to take more offers!

... to those helping with next week's swimming trials.

### People of the week

... our international students!

... those children who have acted as buddies for brand new students, going out of their way to make these students feel welcome.

... those children turning up each day with sunhats and drink bottles

... Riley Tonkin who achieved a 1st in rearing, 2<sup>nd</sup> in leading, 3<sup>rd</sup> in dairy, and Junior Champion Calf at the Recent Nth Kaipara Calf Day. Well done Riley!

### Term calendar ... More to follow as dates come to hand!

19 / 20 Feb	Parent Interviews
21 Feb	ESOL Marae Visit
22 Feb	Camp Meeting 7pm, Y5 & 6 parents
27 Feb	Zone Swimming Sports at Kokopu School
1 / 2 March	Kio Rahi (more to follow)
6 - 9 March	Year 5 and 6 camp
12 March	School Swimming Sports (years 4 to 8)
14 March	Interschool Swimming Sports
15 March	School Swimming Sports (years 1 to 3)
19 March	Junior Marine Trip 1
20 March	School Duathlon - Teams Event
21 March	School Duathlon - Individual Event
26 March	Junior Marine Trip 2
27 March	ESOL Trip (more to follow)
9 April	Visiting Drama Group
11 April	Northland Swimming Championship
13 April	Final day of term 1 (30 April First day of term 2)

### Triadic Conferences (parent / teacher / student interviews)

The above are scheduled for 19 and 20 February - the **online bookings screen is open today**. Letter coming home with newsletter today.

Parents are encouraged to attend these interviews with their child or to make an alternative appointment if these days do not suit. Conferences are an opportunity to talk about your child specifically, to see how they have settled, to note any concerns, and to set some targets. This is a chance for you and your child (optional for year 1 children) to be heard and to hear some first impressions of how their year is unfolding.

**To book your interview time** Please book online via the following website - [www.schoolinterviews.co.nz](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz) and enter the event code of **aqmgx**

Please note that bookings are allocated on a first in basis and so don't delay.

**Early Buses** - early notice that buses will run 30-40 minutes early on 19 & 20 February because of parent interviews. Parents who transport their children by car are asked to pick them up at 2.30pm please on these days.

### In last week's newsletter (available via our website - newsletter tab, or from the office on request)

Request for help with senior options programme	Term dates 2018	Daily absences
School Contributions	Trips and Events Fee	Stationery
Bus times	Pick up of children	End of day Buses
Parent Helpers	Swimming Gear	Guitar Lessons
Questions	Request From our Librarian	Communications
Updating Medications	Digital Devices	Up to date contact details

### Senior Study Hour (Years 7 & 8)

There are a number of benefits to your children continuing their year 7 and 8 education at Matarau School (enumerated on our website), but one of these is Senior Study Hour. This is an opportunity for your child to have supervised time to complete, or continue, work related to their regular class programme. They do not usually receive new work here, it is a chance to consolidate what they are learning, as well as to practise in areas of weakness, to close any gaps, to ask questions, to work in a smaller group, and maybe to get some targeted support. They may also get the opportunity to take some concepts a little further, or to complete homework with a teacher on hand if they are having difficulty. There is no cost to parents of children involved in Senior Study Hour. **Senior Study Hour operates 3:00 to 4:00 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.** Children may attend anywhere from 1 to 3 of these weekly sessions. If you would like to register your child please do so by contacting Mrs Donaldson on [kdonaldson@matarau.school.nz](mailto:kdonaldson@matarau.school.nz).

### Homework

Home Learning is **encouraged but optional** at Matarau School. For most children this will mean 4 nights home learning a week (around 20 minutes each night), with most of this time spent on word learning, maths basic facts and reading, with one activity related to their class programme. Parents should feel free to advise their child's teacher if the load needs to be lightened for any reason, or if they wish their child excused from home learning altogether. This saves tension and time wasted chasing home learning. **If you do NOT want your child to receive home learning, please advise their teacher NEXT week.** If you are on board, please set a regular time and place, and advise us if we can help with any "speed wobbles" along the way. Let's start as we mean to continue by getting routines well established.

*(Although the research is a little inconclusive we believe that regular home learning routines lead to better performance and a better preparation for secondary school for most children).*

### Senior School T-Shirts (Year 7s)

All orders & payment (\$40) were due into the office today, late orders will be accepted Monday morning.

### School Sponsors sought for 2018

Interested parties are invited to express an interest in becoming a school sponsor. Our sponsors provide an important link between the school and its community. While grateful for the financial contributions of sponsors, our desire to foster an on-going and mutually beneficial relationship between the school and your business is our paramount consideration.

Where relevant, a sponsor will be given the opportunity to quote on school work through the Ministry of Education. This is just one of the benefits of being a sponsor.

If you are interested in becoming a school sponsor, please contact the school office and ask for Brenda.

### School gates

The school gates help us to keep children safe. If you are entering, or exiting, the school grounds during school hours it is important to ensure you close these gates after you. If you are dropping a child at school after first or before final bell, please be aware that they may not be tall enough to open these gates on their own.

### Cellphones

We realise that some parents like their children to have a cell phone on them in the event of an emergency. If your child does bring a cell phone to school please note that these must be dropped to the school office on arrival at school and picked up on departure each day. If you want to get a message to your child during the school day this should be channelled through the school office.



### Sunhats

A reminder that school bucket sunhats are compulsory in terms 1 and 4. Please ensure these are packed at the beginning of each school day. Clothing which covers the shoulders is also advisable with sun block at your discretion.

### Pool Keys

The school pool will be available for public use. Hire keys are available from the school office at **\$40 per school family**, which includes a \$10 key bond which will be refunded upon return of the key. This fee is for the 2018 swimming season. If you have a key from last year it is important that you return this as soon as possible. Last year's keys will not work on the lock in 2018. No fence jumping please.

### Term Headlice Inspection

We are keen to have a school wide headlice inspection next Thursday morning - 15<sup>th</sup> February - to avoid the stress which accompanies any outbreak. We need offers of help and so, if you are able to help with inspections, please phone Helen here at school. - all training given on the spot, confidentiality is the only requirement! - Without offers of help we will not be able to continue this service.

### Scholastic Book Club

Issue 1 has been sent to classrooms. All payment & orders must be to the office by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February.

### Year 5 and 6 Camp - 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> March 2018

We are happy to make accommodations for time payment of camp fees (\$160) ... just see Kevin. *There is a camp meeting for all parents attending camp, all parents are welcome - 7pm Thursday 22 February in the School Staffroom.* Any general questions in the run up to camp to Mr Schuster please - sschuster@matarau.school.nz.

### Swimming Trials

If able to assist with the timing of swimmers on Monday **12 February** (years 4 to 8) please flick Kevin an email over the weekend ... would love a few more helpers. These trials help ensure correct selection of swimmers for zone & interschool events & assist us to place children in heats for our school swimming sports.

### Loose Parts Play in room 1

Can you donate any of the following items, like buttons, bottle tops, off cuts of wood, nuts, bolts, old pool noodles... anything the children can explore their imagination with? If so, please drop to Room 1 or the office

### Cohort Entry

You may recall that we consulted with you last year regarding a cohort entry policy which would have enabled children to start school 5 weeks or so before their fifth birthday if ready, or 5 weeks after if not ready. This is to advise that the new government has decided not to proceed with this initiative. Thank you to those people who contributed their thoughts during consultation.

As in earlier years, please let us know a couple of months before your child turns 5 and we will negotiate a suitable starting date for them.

### Cambridge Lower Secondary Programme

Printed material is available in the office foyer for those keen to know more about this programme and how it will benefit our students. Just ask, we love to talk about this programme!

### Creating optimal conditions for learning (just a reminder)

An increasing body of educational research is suggesting that some of the biggest improvements in learning (and sometimes health) can result from simple things like ..

- .. **drinking plenty of water.** Parents are asked to ensure children bring a water bottle to school each day. A reminder that water is preferable to sugar based drinks. We will encourage them to have their water bottle on their desks at all times during the day (a good idea when you consider the brain is 90% water).
- ... **a good nights sleep.** A target bedtime of 8:00 PM (or earlier) is suggested for all children.
- .. **a suitable breakfast and healthy lunch.** With food as close as possible to its natural form.
- .. don't forget to **show an interest** in what your child is doing at school. Share mealtimes with them if possible and don't let them overdo the homework - we all need time to play.

### After School Care

Is now up & running in the School Hall each afternoon after school. If you would use an After School Care programme, 3:00 - 5:45pm, with homework support, afternoon tea, arts and crafts etc. Cost \$6 per child per hour,...

### Finally

Thought you might be interested in this article. This testifies to lots of things, not least to the importance of parents as potential teachers of their children, and to the fact that human beings are wired to seek answers. The implications of these two facts alone are huge!

*"By Telegraph staff and agencies*

*Research shows mothers are the most quizzed people in the UK, and on subjects far and wide. They are asked more questions every hour than a primary school teacher - 19 - as well as doctors and nurses, 18. And the study discovered girls aged four are the most curious, asking an incredible 390 questions per day - averaging a question every 1 minute 56 seconds of their waking day.*

*The report by online retailer Littlewoods.com looked at a typical day at home with the kids for a British mum and when they have to field the most queries. From breakfast at 7.19am to tea time at 7.59pm, the average mum faces a testing 12.5 hour day of questioning - working out at one question every two minutes 36 seconds."*

Regards  
Kevin Trewhella  
PRINCIPAL

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children, please support them

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## School Lunches



**Mondays** - \$3.00 : Baked Beans or Spaghetti served with toast & a juice, or Chicken or Beef Cup of Noodles & a juice.

Order at the office by morning tea on Monday.

**Wednesdays** - STARTing- 14 Feb 18 - \$1.50 : for Sausage (meat or vegetarian option) in bread with sauce.

Order on Wednesday mornings through the classroom teacher.

**Fridays** -\$4.00 - Hot Mince Pie, Mince & Cheese Pie, Sausage Roll (with Museli Bar) or a Butter Chicken Wrap and a Fruit Drink. You can swap the Fruit drink for a Flavoured Milk for \$5.00.

PLUS NEW - \$4.50 : - Ham or Chicken Salad Wrap or Salad Wrap with a juice Or  
\$2.50 - Cup of Chilled Watermelon or Pineapple.

Order by Wednesday at the office, to receive Friday.

## Community Notices

**Kelloggs Free Books for Schools** – for every New World receipt showing purchase of 2 Kellogg's products that is dropped into the instore collection box Kelloggs will donate a book to our School Library... up until 31 March 2018.

**House cleaner required** 2-3 hours per week for general household cleaning work. Close to school. Please contact Louise on 0274 524 756 if you are interested.